

LEGISLATION TO BAN OIL AND GAS DRILLING IN MOSQUITO CREEK LAKE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prohibit oil and gas drilling in Mosquito Creek Lake in Cortland, Ohio. The lake is in the 17th Congressional District of Ohio which I am privileged to represent.

For the past several years I have tried to work with the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management to address the legitimate concerns of local residents about the potential environmental and health impacts of oil and gas drilling on Mosquito Creek Lake. Unfortunately, a satisfactory arrangement could not be met. BLM is in the process of allowing slant drilling on the lake.

Last year I carefully reviewed BLM's environmental assessment which included proposed safety procedures to contain leaks, spills and overflows. After considering these proposals, I felt compelled to join many of my constituents in opposition to drilling on private land around the lake. I remain adamantly opposed to any drilling. At this juncture, the only way to stop the drilling is legislative action. That's why I am introducing this bill.

My legislation would bar any person from any drilling activity, including slant or directional drilling, to extract oil or gas from lands beneath Mosquito Creek Lake in Cortland, Ohio. Under the Traficant bill, the U.S. Attorney General has the authority to file suit in U.S. District Court to enforce this prohibition.

While tests have shown evidence of oil and gas deposits below the lake, the levels are not high enough to justify drilling, in my opinion. The potential benefits of extracting oil and gas from beneath Mosquito Creek Lake do not outweigh the potential damage that could be done to the environment, water quality and overall quality of life for area residents. That's the bottom line.

I intend to do everything possible to have this legislation enacted into law this year.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION.

After the enactment of this Act no person may commence any drilling activity (including any slant or directional drilling) to extract oil or gas from lands beneath waters under the jurisdiction of the United States in Mosquito Creek Lake in Cortland, Ohio. The Attorney General of the United States may bring an action in the appropriate United States district court to enforce the prohibition contained in this section.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE MENNONITES IN AMERICA

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the gentleman from South Dakota,

Mr. THUNE, to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the arrival of the Mennonites in the United States.

To do so, I would like to read from a poem written by my constituent, Mrs. Gladys Graber Goering of Hutchinson, Kansas:

"A HYMN OF HERITAGE"

Sing a song of deep gratitude
To our God, Who by His grace,
Led a people through centuries
To this special time and place.
Glad hosannas to you belong,
Joy of the Lord, our strength and song.
Tell the prairies' welcoming call
Soil rich to the farmer's hand,
Grasses and sky and spacious fields
Beckoned families to the land,
Promised them freedom to pursue
The peaceful life which once they knew.
Simple homes built on the broad plain,
Church and school as their domain,
Mennonites soon felt richly blest,
Stretching borders east to west,
Children and children's children grown
Claimed the new land as their own.
One-room schoolhouse and ABC's
Played a part in wisdom's call.
Stumbling now with a language strange,
Students soon embraced it all.
Learning continued through the years
Pointing the way to new careers.
Caring families eased the way
Through the stresses of each day
Dust and storm, depression and fears,
Conscience and war, conflicts and tears,
As generations moved along,
Anchored safe in families strong.
Sing a song of our heritage,
Home and church and values true,
Faith enduring, foundation firm,
Building blocks on which we grew.
God of the ages, help us, pray,
Increase the good gifts of today.

The accomplishments of the Mennonite community, in Kansas and South Dakota and in America are many. What continues to endure is the strength of their communities and of the values that they share.

In a world that is rapidly changing, where information is shared around the globe instantly, and where too often, faith is an antiquated notion, the Mennonite community has retained its belief in service to the global community, peaceful resolution to conflict, and faith in God. From Moundridge, Kansas to Freeman, South Dakota, Mennonites have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve people in need.

Today, farmers are still growing the Turkey Red Winter Wheat that the Mennonites brought with them 125 years ago. Midwestern states like Kansas and South Dakota make up the "Bread Basket of the World" and our farmers produce more wheat than any other states. The gentleman from South Dakota and I are grateful that so many Mennonites chose Moundridge and Freeman as their homes and helped to shape our great states.

It is an honor to commemorate this anniversary.

THE PASSING OF JUDGE PAUL J. DRISCOLL OF NORWICH, CT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow to memorialize Superior

Court Judge Paul J. Driscoll of Norwich, Connecticut. Judge Driscoll was a person of unequaled integrity, intelligence and fairness underscored by an almost limitless amount of humility.

Judge Driscoll was born in Norwich, Connecticut on May 14, 1909 and attended local public schools. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from Georgetown University. During World War II, he served in China as a member of the Judge Advocate General corps attaining the rank of Major.

Following the war, Judge Driscoll returned to Connecticut and began a career in public service which spanned four decades. He served as a member of the Board of Education in Norwich and as a trustee of Norwich Hospital. He also was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut. In 1966, he was appointed to the Superior Court of Connecticut. In this capacity, Judge Driscoll presided over a wide array of cases with fairness, keen intelligence and great command of the law. Following his retirement in 1979, Judge Driscoll continued to play a role in mediating disputes as a State Referee.

Paul Driscoll also played a number of important roles in the Democratic Party in Connecticut. He served as Democratic Town Chairman in Norwich for many years. He was also a member of the Democratic State Central Committee. In these roles, he worked hard on behalf of working men and women.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Paul Driscoll was an exemplary public servant and a great American. His memory will endure through his many meaningful contributions to virtually every aspect of life in southeastern Connecticut.

IN HONOR OF NEW JERSEY'S PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE STATEWIDE COMMITTEE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Jersey's Puerto Rican Heritage Statewide Committee for their efforts to stimulate cultural pride and diversity in Newark, New Jersey.

The Puerto Rican Heritage Statewide Committee is dedicated to strengthening and enhancing the quality of life for many Hispanic residents in the State of New Jersey. From raising money for scholarships to renovating community centers such as La Casa Puerto Rico Cultural Center, the PRHSC has continued to be a driving force to improve the community.

Armed with a vision to promote Puerto Rican culture through pride and unity, the